

SANJAY -THE MINISTER OF DHRITARAstra (NEWS SERVER OF THE GREAT WAR)

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WHO WAS SANJAY ?

Sanjay was born in a sect called Suta in Hastinapura, capital of the Kaurava dynasty. Usually the chariot driver is called suta. The name of his father was Gabalgana. It may be mentioned here that the Sutas were memory holder. If anything they hear they remember it. Sanjay was a very educated person having a good moral character. In the epic Mahabharata he is considered as one of the best man/character (Mahabharata Adi Parva 6.3.97). Sanjay was a minister of Dhritarastra, the king of Hastinapura. He was a high qualified pandit. Suta Goswami (alternatively known as Ugrashrava Muni) commented on Sanjay that : “ I know the inner meaning of the verses of Mahabharata. Also Sukdev Goswami know this. Perhaps Sanjay also understand the same .” (Mahabharata Adi Parva 1.81). This statement is sufficient for regarding the depth of knowledge of Sanjay. In different parts of the epic Mahabharata Sanjay had been described as a highly educated, philosopher and a man of strict principle. Sanjay was a disciple of Srila Vysdeva. Vysdeva gave him spiritual eyes so that he can describe the daily position of the great war of Kurukshetra to the king Dhritarastra.

A STRAIGHTCUT SPOKE PERSON

Sanjay was a very much straightcut spokesman in the way. Whatever happened in the war, he informed the king without any hesitation. Pandavas were defeated in the dice play and as such they had to go to the forest. But before going they threatened that in one day they would beat and defeat the Kauravas. They also promised to kill 100 sons of Dhritarastra and others who was silent at the time of dice playing. Promising all these the Pandavas went into the forest. Dhritarastra became very much scared hearing the promises of the pandavas. At that time Sanjay appeared before him and said: “Rajan, you have deprived the Pandavas from their kingdom and as such should be joyful now. Instead you seemed to be fearful and thinking so much. In addition to these he also said that quarrels occurred between the Kauravas and the Pandavas due to your evil thinkings. This is result of your dishonest behaviour and activities towards the Pandavas and reflection from controlling and punishment of your sons and their followers. Sanjay further said that whenever the Supreme God wants to give sorrow to someone, the first destroys his intelligence . That notorious intelligence seems to be the praise worthy. All these happened in your case. Sanjay again said: “Rajan, you have the capability of controlling your sons, especially Duryadhana. But you did not do so, rather encouraged the sons directly or indirectly to do unjustified activities. Sree Krishna ,Birat Raj (King of Matsadesha), Drustadhuma(prince of panchal desa and brother of Drupadi) all have joined with the pandavas. They have discuss about the future great war. And Krishna has given assurance to Yudhisthira that He will kill all and will reestablish him on the throne.(Mahabharata Vanparva 59.115-127). Arjun has got a dangerous weapon named Pasupat from Shiva after satisfying Him. He also have got different weapons from devatas, including Indra. Bhima killed Rakshasas very easily and he has the strengths of 10000 elephants. The pandavas always pay respect to you and your words, advises etc, but you did not do your duties towards them. Dharma is in favour of the Pandavas and as such they will win the great war inspite of the presence of great warriors like Bhishma, Dronee, Karna, Kripacarya, Ashwathama, etc. The pandavas are now owner of various dangerous weapons. Hearing all these why do you express anger and become sad?(Mahabharat Uddugaparva 5.45-59)

ROLE PLAYED AS A MEDIATOR

The pandavas spent 12 years in the forest and 1 year hidden . Now they came and want their lost kingdom in Indraprastha. The Kauravas were not agreed to return the kingdom. Then the Pandavas

threatened the Kauravas for a war. Hearing this Dhritarastra, out of fear, sent Sanjoy as a mediator to the Pandavas . But before sending he praised Krishna and the Pandavas very much. But the clever as well as notorious king Dhritarastra did say nothing regarding the return of the Pandava's Kingdom.

Sanjoy met Krishna and the Pandavas but did say nothing about the praises of Dhritarastra about Krishna and the Pandavas. He knew that Dhritarastra was a man without any definite principle. Not only so the whole kingdom was directly or indirectly controlled by his son Duryadhana, Shakuni, Karna and so on. He has no control over them. Thus even if he could give a message of returning their kingdom to the Pandavas, he could not turn this into reality.

He said to Krishna and the Pandavas that not only Duryadhana , but even the king Dhritarastra is not ready to return their kingdom. Hearing this Krishna at the request of Yudhisthir, put a proposal of giving only 5 gramas(villages) for the 5 brothers. Actually Yudhisthir was trying to avoid any war with the Kauravas.

Sanjay said that he would put their proposal at the assembly hall in the next day in front of all ministers and aged persons like Bhishma , Dronee, and so on. But he expressed his views indirectly that Duryadhana, would not except even this simple proposal. Because as a very intelligent person he could understand the views of Duryadhana. As such Sanjoy gave the Pandavas some hints that without war Duryadhana would not sacrifice anything, i.e. indirectly he gave a message to the Pandavas to prepare themselves for a great war.

GOT SPIRITUAL EYES FROM VYSDEVA TO SEE THE WAR AND INFORM DHRITARASTA THEREOF

A great war was knocking at the door of the two parties. Vysdeva came and requested to stop the war. But Duryadhana did not pay heed to this, Vysdeva, then gave Sanjay a spiritual eyes to see the war and delivers all to king Dhritarastra.

Sanjay was a man of principle and was always in favour of the Pandavas. If any opportunity came he always spoke in favour of them.

Now a great war started between the Kauravas and the Pandavas . From Mahabharata we see that Sanjay remained at the kurukshetra for the first 10 days of the war until Bhishma fell down. Then he returned to Hastinapur and being enquired by Dhritarastra, he narrated first about the arrangements of the war from two sides; Duryadhana's appeal to Dronee; Arjuna's negative response to fight against friends and relatives and spiritual advices given by Krishna Himself to Arjuna; and last of all Arjuna's surrender to Krishna and agreed to fight against the Kauravas. Then Sanjay narrated the defeats of the Kauravas one by one. Hearing so, Dhritarastra became very sad and criticised himself. Then Sanjay gave him consolation by saying that it was the rule of nature. Again he charged the old king for his misdeeds. This type of situation was seen during the time of the war. Sanjay said: "Rajan, you came to these types of sorrowness for your earlier misdeeds. Please leave your sorrowness . You had neglected the advices of the intelligent persons like Bhishma, Drone and others and as such a miserable condition was created. (Mahabharat Uddogparva 77.95, Drone Parva 27.5, 27.20-25)

From the above it is clear that Sanjay was an efficient minister. At one side he consoled the king for his misfortune but on the other he also reminded king about his earlier misdeeds. Hence, we see that Sanjay was not an ordinary minister. He praised always the proper activities and used to criticise any misdeeds done by the Kauravas including the king Dhritarastra. This is why he could charge the king by saying that one should not transfer his own fault unto others. The pandavas beared many sufferings and insults and expected that you do the needful as per religious rules and practices. But

Alas! You did nothing, they became frustrated, anger emerged in their mind not only towards Duryadhana but also to you.

Day after day the conditions of the Kauravas became serious. Hearing these news ,the old king said to Sanjay that he was against the war. At once Sanjay replied: “Rajan, keep your mind stable and listen to the results of your misdeeds. Only Duryadhana alone was not responsible for this war. Now no result would come out of any good deeds.(Mahabharat Uddag Parva 42.22-23)

SYMPATHY TOWARDS THE PANDAVAS AND A DEVOTEE OF KRISHNA

Once Dhritarastra asked Sanjay again and again regarding the strength of the Kauravas and the Pandavas. Sanjay became very dissatisfied in mind and said that he is telling the truth in very briefly: Let all the universe in one side and Krishna is on the other side. But Krishna is more stronger. And where Krishna is present, victory is certainly there.(Mahabharat Uddag Parva 88.7-9).

Sanjay further remarked: Krishna has determined to destroy your indisciplined, notorious and unethical sons in connection with the Pandavas. Sanjay further said a non-intelligent person cannot understand the real form of Keshava (Krishna's another name). I always follow religious statements made by the most intelligent persons could come to know the real form, spirit, principle and strength of Krishna. The Pandavas always followed the path of religion. Hence all of their activities are right as per religious rules and practices. Hence they will be victorious in the war since Krishna is in favour of them. He said:-

Yatra yogeshvara Krishna yatra partha dhanu dharah

Tattva sri vijaya dhriti druva niti matin mate (B.G. 18.78)

That is : Whenever there is Krishna the master of all mysteries and whenever there is Arjuna, the supreme anchor, there will also certainly be opulences, victory, extraordinary power and mortality. This is my opinion.

CONCLUSION

After the war Dhritarastra and Gandhari remained under the supervision of Yudhisthir for 15 years. After that they decided to go to Vanprastha. Kunti and Sanjay joined them. All of them went to meditation. At one time there occurred a dabanal(Forest Fire). All of them died. However at the request of Dhritarastra Sanjay came out of forest and proceeded to the Himalaya's mountains. Most possibly Sanjay left his body there.